

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

8. (currently amended) A heat sealing machine comprising:

a mechanism for dispensing a desired length of a heat sealable material;

a processor operable to automatically select a heating time, said heating time being the time when heat is applied to the heat sealable material, the heating time being selected based on one or more sealing parameters selected from the group of a minimum sealing temperature, a minimum heating time, a maximum sealing temperature, and a maximum heating time; and

a heating device for applying heat to a portion of the heat sealable material according to a processor controlled sealing routine that utilizes the automatically selected heating time.

9. (original) The machine of claim 8, wherein the processor is operable to determine values for the minimum heating time and maximum heating time parameters based on whether a first sealing operation of a batch is being performed.

10. (original) The machine of claim 8, further comprising a control for selecting a thickness of the heat sealable material, wherein the processor is operable to determine

values of the sealing parameters based on the thickness of the heat sealable material.

11. (original) The machine of claim 10, wherein the processor is operable to compare the automatically selected heating time to a minimum sealing time and a maximum sealing time determined by the thickness of the heat sealable material.

12. (original) The machine of claim 8, wherein during the processor controlled sealing routine, the processor is operable to preheat the heating device for a fourth time period, and is operable to allow the heating device to cool for a fifth time period.

13. (original) The machine of claim 12, wherein the fourth time period is determined from an initial temperature of the heating device and one or more of the sealing parameters.

14. (currently amended) A heat sealing machine comprising:

a mechanism for dispensing a desired length of a heat sealable material;

a processor operable to automatically select a heating time based on one or more sealing parameters selected from the group of a minimum sealing temperature, a minimum heating time, a maximum sealing temperature, and a maximum heating time;

a heating device for applying heat to a portion of the heat sealable material according to a processor

controlled sealing routine that utilizes the
automatically selected heating time; and

[[The machine of claim 8, further comprising]] a
mechanism for applying and removing the heating device
from the heat sealable material[[,]];

wherein during the processor controlled sealing routine,
the processor is operable to:

cause the mechanism to apply the heating device to the
heat sealable material;

apply power to the heating device for the automatically
selected heating time;

remove power from the heating device while allowing the
heating device to remain applied to the heat sealable
material for a third time period; and

cause the mechanism to remove the heating device from the
heat sealable material.

Claims 15-21 (Cancelled).

22. (currently amended) A bag dispenser comprising:

a sealing device;

a controller programmed to control the sealing device;
and

a program for use by the controller for automatically
selecting a sealing time for the sealing device, wherein

the sealing time is selected according to [[one or more of]] a bag count [[or]] and one or more of a parameter of the sealing device.

23. (original) The bag dispenser of claim 22, wherein a bag count of 0 results in a first sealing time.

24. (original) The bag dispenser of claim 22, wherein a bag count of other than 0 results in a second sealing time.

25. (original) The bag dispenser of claim 22, wherein the program is operable to compare the automatically selected sealing time to a minimum sealing time and a maximum sealing time determined by a thickness of the dispensed bag.

26. (original) The bag dispenser of claim 22, wherein the parameter of the sealing device includes one or more parameters selected from the group of a minimum sealing temperature, a minimum heating time, a maximum sealing temperature, and a maximum heating time.

27. (original) The bag dispenser of claim 26, wherein values for the minimum heating time and maximum heating time parameters are based on whether a first sealing operation of a batch is being performed.

28. (currently amended) A bag dispenser comprising:

a bag selector for selecting one of a bag width or a bag thickness for effecting an automatic bag selection; and

a controller responsive to an output of the selector for programmatically determining a seal time and a heating time different from the seal time for the automatically selected bags.